

SCHMITZ HOME MAY BE PRISON

OWNER IS TRYING TO RENT IT TO RUEF'S ELISOR AS PLACE OF DETENTION.

ENTERTAINS AND DINES THERE

Political Boss and Mayor Laid Many of Their Political Campaign Plans in the Executive Residence.

San Francisco—It may be the irony of fate that the former residence of Mayor Schmitz, in which he resided when elected, and often entertained and dined Ruef, and where the mayor and the political boss laid many of their political campaign plans, may become Ruef's prison for some months. The present owner is attempting to rent it to Elisor Biggy as a place of detention for Ruef when he takes the latter away from the St. Francis hotel.

Abraham Ruef said that he is considering the preparation of a statement to the public and declared that when he tells his story it will contain sensations equal to the disclosures made by the alleged confessions of the supervisors. He expressed the opinion that the investigation now going on was in furtherance of an organized attempt to seize the municipal government and asserted that it was "government by indictment" instead of "government by injunction."

Railways President May Testify.

It was stated that Patrick Calhoun, president of the United Railways Co., would be given an opportunity to appear before the grand jury in connection with the alleged bribery of the board of supervisors in the matter of an overhead trolley franchise granted the United Railways last May. It was also learned that a number of indictments, which have not even been trusted to secret file for fear that their contents might leak out, are not all against one person, but are said to contain the names of several.

Ruef Preparing Statement.

Sixty-six charges of bribery against Ruef were assigned by Presiding Judge Coffey to Judge Dunne's department of the superior court. They will be placed on the calendar and arraignment set for some day early next week. To avoid possible conflict between the chief of police, sheriff or Elisor Biggy, no bench warrants will be issued on these warrants.

Reason Action Is Delayed.

The true reason for the determination of the prosecution to take no immediate steps toward removing from office the supervisors has been discovered. District Attorney Langdon stated that in order to remove them it would be necessary to prove the charges against them. This would compel the prosecution to bring forward all its evidence and thereby disclose its entire hand before the trials of those who are or will be indicted. It also developed that the district attorney would run counter of the same law that defeated the attempt of Ruef and Acting Mayor Gallagher last fall to remove District Attorney Langdon and put Ruef in his place. While summary proceedings could be taken to remove the mayor, the issuance of a writ of probable cause by some judge would act as a stay of proceedings during an appeal and by resorting to technicalities the settling of the appeal might be delayed until the mayor's term of office had expired.

The grand jury did not meet yesterday, but will hold a short session today, at which time the investigation of the alleged telephone deal will be resumed. No indictments are expected to be filed today.

Jury Will Also Be Guarded.

The same care and watchfulness that has marked the custody of Ruef will be exercised in guarding the jury against any possible outside influences when his trial begins. Instead of a bailiff or the sheriff having charge of the jury, District Attorney Langdon stated that the jury would be placed in charge of Elisor W. J. Biggy. This is said to be the first time in the legal history of the United States that an elisor has been appointed by a court to apprehend a defendant and given such power to keep him in custody during trial.

The present appointment of an elisor extends only to the one charge of extortion, on which Ruef is on trial, and does not apply to the other indictments. In order to reappoint the elisor to take charge of Ruef during the trial of the other charges, it will be necessary for the prosecution to show again that the sheriff and other regular officers are disqualified. When told that Mayor Schmitz's former residence may become his temporary prison, Ruef jokingly said: "Why not take my house? I offer the elisor my home for the purpose."

Constable Again Invades Oaklawn.

Hot Springs, Ark.—Constable Golden of Hale township again invaded Oaklawn at the head of a band of 25 members of the Citizens' Improvement union, and a number of arrests were made.

Taft Changes Panama Engineers.

Washington—Secretary Taft announced yesterday that Lieut. Col. Goethals would succeed Mr. Stevens as chairman of the isthmian canal commission and engineer in charge of the canal work on April 1.

MORE HIGH WATER

SECTIONS OF CALIFORNIA SUFFER FROM FLOODS.

SERIOUSLY AFFECT COMMUNICATION

Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers at High Water Stage—Much Damage Will Result.

San Francisco—The heavy rains of the last four days in California have resulted in serious flood stages in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and flood warnings have been issued regularly, beginning with Sunday evening, March 17. At many points along the tributary streams the stages of water are the highest on record, and along the main streams the situation is very grave.

The Feather river at Oroville is falling and it is thought that the danger point has been passed. Some of the stores and buildings of the town are flooded, and much damage will result. Many of the residents sought shelter in the churches and public halls, abandoning their personal effects. No loss of life has yet been reported.

Traffic Is Interrupted.

Railroad and telegraph communications are interrupted in all directions. At Logan's Ferry, in Monterey county, the Southern Pacific track has been covered to a depth of 20 feet by a landslide, interrupting all traffic on the coast division of that line. Trains on all lines are being held up, and the departures of many have been canceled indefinitely.

Forecast Official McAdie states that the brunt of the storm has now passed northern California points and is moving southward.

Reports received from Stockton state that at Lockwood the water had risen three feet and a half in three hours and that three bridges had been washed out. At Stockton a general flood seems inevitable and the public schools have been dismissed. Yuba City is now submerged to the depth of three or four feet. Heavy rains in the Sacramento valley have blocked traffic on the Southern Pacific lines to the east by way of Ogden and no trains are running. In addition to the blockade at Summit caused by the collapse of a portion of the snowshed, telegraph wires are down over the mountains and no information can be gotten east of Cisco.

Yuba River Still Booming.

At Marysville the Yuba river is still booming, but the worst is believed to be over. All of the bridges near the city have been washed out except the Southern Pacific railroad bridge. A portion of the city and the surrounding lowlands are covered with water, but the flood is not expected to extend. The Valley line is clear and trains are running to Los Angeles, but the coast line is blocked at Pajaro by washouts.

JEWS STILL SUFFERING.

Attacked and Plundered at Burdusheni, They Flee to Itzakani.

Vienna—According to a telegram received here from Czernowitz, an Austrian town close to the boundary of Moldavia, Roumania, advices have been received there from the Austrian frontier police stationed at Itzakani and Suczawa that the anti-Jewish outbreak in Roumania is assuming serious proportions. Peasants have attacked and plundered Jews at Burdusheni, who are fleeing over the frontier to Itzakani. About 2,000 fugitives, mostly women and children, already have crossed the frontier. Other reports declare that further serious disturbances have occurred at Botosani, where the peasants have set fire to the houses of Jews and as a result almost the entire town is in flames. The Hebrew alliance of Vienna is preparing to take care of the Roumania fugitives.

Heat Records Broken.

Guthrie, Okla.—All heat records of Oklahoma were broken, when the thermometer yesterday afternoon registered 102 in the shade. The unusual heat was accompanied by a stiff breeze.

Change of Venue Still a Question.

Caldwell, Idaho—Arguments were continued before Judge Wood on the motion for a change of venue in the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone case, affidavits being received for its support.

Harriman Roads Threatened.

Cleveland—According to reports in circulation here, a secret meeting of the executive board of the International Brotherhood of Bollemakers and Iron Shipbuilders was held in this city, and as a result it is said a strike will probably be ordered within 48 hours on all railroads controlled by E. H. Harriman and his associates. Mr. Harriman, it is said, has been given 48 hours in which to agree to the demands made on the Chicago & Alton road by the bollemakers.

Nevada Shares in Floods.

Reno, Nev., March 20.—The Truckee river has dropped three feet since Monday and it is thought the worst of the flood has passed. All overland trains are still tied up here at Sparks, and, at the best, it will be 24 hours before trains are again running. Numerous snowslides are reported in the mountains. The damage done in this city probably will reach not more than \$40,000. On the south side of the river, where the greater part of Reno lies, people have been without electric power, gas and water since Monday.

RAILROADERS MAY STRIKE

EMPLOYEES VOTE TO REJECT GENERAL MANAGERS' OFFER OF 8 PER CENT INCREASE.

A CRISIS MAY BE AVERETED

Further Conference with Officials of Western Lines Likely to Be Held—Advance May Be Increased to 10 Per Cent.

Chicago—The vote for a strike on all the western railroads has been carried by a majority of nearly 95 per cent. This estimate was given by committees who reached the city in advance of the general conference of conductors and trainmen, which will be held today at the Sherman house.

About 150 of the 200 railroad employees who will take part in the conference arrived before midnight Sunday, and the others, together with Grand Master Morrissey of the trainmen's brotherhood and General Chief Garretson of the conductors' order, arrived Sunday morning. These men will canvass the vote and make an official announcement of the result probably today.

There remains one chance that the impending strike will be averted. Officials representing forty railroad systems from Chicago to the Pacific coast will confer this afternoon. It is expected that they will receive a request for a conference from the employees and that it will be granted.

The situation at present means that

United States Marines Landed in Honduras

Washington, March 22.—Bluejackets and marines have been landed from the United States gunboat Marietta at Trujillo and Ceiba, and probably at Puerto Cortez, Honduras, in order to protect American interests in those ports.

As yet no word has been received as to whether forces have been landed at Central American ports on the Pacific Coast side, but undoubtedly this step will be taken if American interests are considered in danger.

The Navy Department feels that the action taken by Commander Fullam brings the situation completely in hand, so far as the safeguarding of trade interests is concerned.

unless the roads see fit to make the men a better offer, some radical action will be taken. The matter now rests in the hands of the grand lodges of the two brotherhoods. If they wish to order a strike, it will be in their power to do so. Possibly, however, they may decide to recommend another vote rather than start a strike which will tie up every railroad in the west. The practically unanimous rejection by the men of the railroads' present proposition, which carries with it an increase in wages of about 8 per cent, is believed to have the effect of forcing their officers into a radical position. It is said the officers will not dare to recommend another vote, unless the railroad companies make a better offer.

Several members of the employees' committee seem to think the roads will come forward with a compromise offer, which will give the men about 10 per cent advance in pay. In that case, the outlook for a peaceable solution of the problem would be favorable.

HOLD MASS MEETING.

Roumanian Jews in New York Protest Against Outrages on Countrymen.

New York—The Roumanian Jews of the lower east side held two mass meetings Sunday night to protest against the "atrocities and outrages committed on the Jews in Roumania."

About a thousand dollars, it was announced, was raised by contributions at the doors.

ALABAMANS LYNCH A NEGRO.

After Woman Identifies Captured Man, He Is Riddled with Bullets.

Florence, Ala.—Cleveland Harding, a negro, who attacked Mrs. Ben E. Rice near here Friday, was lynched Sunday by 300 citizens, including his intended victim's husband. Tied to a tree, the negro was riddled with bullets, the first shot being fired by Rice. Following, every man in the crowd emptied his revolver at the prisoner.

May End Disorders.

Bucharest—The conservative cabinet has resigned and a liberal ministry has been formed under the presidency of M. Sturdza, who was premier in a former cabinet. It is hoped the disorders will end.

Sanderson Not Guilty.

Carthage, Mo.—The jury in the case of Arthur Sanderson, charged with the murder of Solomon D. Meredith in Carthage on Jan. 2 last, brought in a verdict of not guilty, after being out 25 hours.

Star of Ethiopia for Pope.

Rome—The pope received in private audience Father Marie Bernado of the Capuchin order, who presented the pontiff with an autograph letter from King Menelik of Abyssinia, conferring on the pope the decoration of the star of Ethiopia.

\$18,000 Worth of Jewelry Stolen.

New York—Eighteen thousand dollars' worth of jewelry was stolen from the home of Charles Morgan, son of the founder of the Morgan Steamship lines, at his home in Orange, N. J., Thursday.

BIG PRAIRIE FIRES

WIND FANS FLAMES WHICH CAUSE LOSS OF THOUSANDS.

TWO WOMEN ARE BURNED TO DEATH

Town's Entire Population Is Fighting Furiously—Other Fires in the Northwest.

Chappel, Neb.—Prairie fires, started supposedly by locomotives and driven by high wind, swept all the country between this place and Julesburg, Col., yesterday. Lack of telephone connection prevents securing all details of damage done, but reports have been received of the burning of several barns, many tons of hay, one home belonging to Albert Naslund, hundreds of fenceposts and several head of cattle. Engineers of west-bound freight trains say that poor coal, with high winds, is making much trouble and that it is necessary to keep on top of trains to guard cars. Two trains pulled in here with cars on fire, one of which had to be chopped open to put out the fire with hose. The loss to farmers will reach far into the thousands of dollars, aside from range burned over, making feeding necessary.

FIFTY MEN TO RESCUE.

Burlington Sends Help to Citizens of Hemingford.

Hemingford, Neb.—A prairie fire, which at one time threatened the city and spread itself over a stretch of country 15 miles in length and about three-fourths of a mile wide, occurred yesterday.

The fire originated at the ranch of F. Nikon, who lives 13½ miles northwest of this city, from the burning

of an old straw stack and continued on its journey, doing damage to the intervening ranchmen and terminated three miles and a half southwest of here, when the furious gale that had been blowing all day had subsided.

In the afternoon the Burlington sent fifty men from its shops at Alliance to help the citizens of Hemingford fight the fire. A fortunate change of the wind saved the town. Loss to ranchmen in buildings and other property will aggregate many thousands of dollars.

Mother and Daughter Burned.

Bonesteel, S. D.—A terrific prairie fire, driven by a furious wind, has been raging since 10 o'clock yesterday morning on the reservation west of here.

Mrs. C. B. Yokum and her daughter have been burned to death.

The town of Herrick is threatened and the entire population is out fighting the flames.

Gasoline Tank Explodes.

Atlantic, Ia.—The 20,000-gallon tank of gasoline which was thrown into Camp creek by the wreck on the Rock Island on Wednesday exploded last night with a terrific report, burning the bridge over the creek and probably fatally injuring three men. A house in the neighborhood caught fire and was badly damaged.

Navy Yard Suffers Loss.

Pensacola, Fla.—Fire last night destroyed building No. 1 at the Pensacola navy yard, entailing a loss estimated at \$175,000. In addition to the loss of the building and its contents, the machinery and equipment for the gunboat Gloucester and Isle de Luzon were destroyed.

Hill Makes Denial.

St. Paul, Minn.—J. J. Hill said last night there was no truth in the statement that he was about to retire from the presidency of the Great Northern railroad.

Star of Ethiopia for Pope.

Rome—The pope received in private audience Father Marie Bernado of the Capuchin order, who presented the pontiff with an autograph letter from King Menelik of Abyssinia, conferring on the pope the decoration of the star of Ethiopia.

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GRAND JURY INDICTS RUEF

MUNICIPAL GRAFT INVESTIGATION CREATES SENSATION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

"THE BEGINNING OF THE END"

After an Extended Deliberation, Jury Gives Its Report—Ten Counts Against T. V. Halsey—More Indictments Expected.

San Francisco—The long looked-for indictments in the municipal graft cases were returned last night. Shortly after 6 o'clock the grand jury filed with Presiding Judge Coffey of the superior court 75 indictments charging bribery, which were found upon evidence presented to the grand jury after six months' probing into the municipal affairs of this city by Assistant District Attorney Francis J. Heney and Secret Service Agent William J. Burns, and which reveal an amazing story of alleged graft and corruption that surpasses the boodle cases of St. Louis, ranks with the Minneapolis expose and is only eclipsed in the amount of money passed, but not its ramifications and organization, by the famous Tweed ring of New York.

Sixty-Five Counts Against Ruef.

Of the indictments returned, sixty-five are against Abraham Ruef, for years the political boss of San Francisco, charging him with bribing the board of supervisors to grant franchises to the United Railroads, the Home Telephone Co., the San Francisco Gas and Electric Co. and the so-called "prize-fight trust." Ten are against T. V. Halsey, former general agent of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Co., who is charged with having bribed the supervisors not to grant a franchise to a rival company. One indictment against Ruef and four more against Halsey which, it is understood, were also returned, were not filed in open court. Several more indictments, the exact number and against what person Heney and Burns refuse to divulge until the accused persons have been arrested, were returned by the grand jury, but not filed. Heney and Burns not even trusting the secret file.

One Franchise Worth \$1,000,000.

Of the sixty-five counts of bribery against Ruef, seventeen are in connection with the granting of the overhead trolley franchise to the United Railroad Co. immediately after the disaster of last April. Seventeen are based upon the money alleged to have been spent by the gas company to secure an 85c gas rate, as against a 75c rate; thirteen refer to the passing of the money by the Home Telephone Co. to obtain a franchise for a bid of \$25,000 and which it had been declared was worth at least \$1,000,000, and eighteen indictments are based upon the alleged bribing of supervisors by Ruef to grant prize-fight permits only to the so-called fight trust of this city, which is composed of Eddie Graney, Morris Levey, James Coffroth and Willis Britt.

The money in all these cases is alleged to have been handled by Ruef,

who, according to Heney and Burns, was the agent and broker between the public service corporations and board of supervisors and a sort of general distributing agent for all who desired privileges from the supervisors.

Halsey Fought Rival Company.

The indictments against Halsey charge the agent of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Co. with having bribed fourteen members of the board of supervisors to refuse the rival company a franchise.

Judge Coffey fixed the bail at \$10,000 on each indictment, or a total of \$450,000 for Ruef and \$100,000 for Halsey. The latter is a brother-in-law of the late John I. Sabin, formerly president of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Co., later at the head of the telephone system in Chicago, and a brother-in-law of Louis Glass, president of the Philippine Telephone Co. Halsey has been in Manila installing a telephone system.

The Beginning of the End.

In this connection it is noteworthy that fourteen of the supervisors are alleged to have also taken \$5,000 each from Halsey to prevent the granting of the franchise to the Home company and it is understood that on these counts fourteen indictments were returned against Halsey, only ten of which were filed Tuesday.

Assistant Attorney Heney stated

that yesterday's indictments "were the beginning of the end of Ruef"—the beginning of the work of exposing the municipal corruption in San Francisco and the prosecution of those "high up" who are responsible for such conditions in this city.

BRIDGE COMPANIES INDICTED.

Alleged Pooling, Bribery and Conspiracy Among the Charges.

Freeport, Ill.—An alleged pooling arrangement whereby a dozen bridge companies combined, it is said, and allotted certain territory to each other, has resulted in the returning of several indictments by a grand jury.

William H. Shons, a bridge builder,

has been indicted on a charge of being in a conspiracy to prevent competition.

Strike Troubles in Switzerland.

Vevey, Switzerland—The general strike which was proclaimed here recently in sympathy with the strikers in a chocolate factory culminated in serious disorders.

PROBE LAND FRAUD

ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL APPOINTED TO TASK.

JUDGE BURCH IN CHARGE OF THEM

Many Attorneys Prominent in the West Are Given a Place on the Corps.

Denver, Col.—Owing to the increasing importance and volume of business of the west, the department of justice has practically organized a corps of special assistant attorneys general for the work of investigating coal, timber and other land frauds and offenses west of the Missouri river, placing Special Assistant Attorney General M. C. Burch in supervisory charge of them. Judge Burch has been in Denver for some time past, quietly organizing present and future operations. Under his supervision a strong force of special assistant special attorneys have been employed. Among these are S. R. Bush, of Omaha; Ernest Knaebel, of Denver; F. A. Maynard, of Salt Lake; E. H. Tong, Durango and H. H. Schwartz, of Helena, Mont. While none of these men are specially located at the point named, matters are so arranged that any of them may be called to any point needing their attention.

Although Judge Burch has not settled on any location, it is probable that the major part of his time for the immediate future will be spent in Denver and that this place will be in effect headquarters for the western operation of the department of justice attorneys and special attorneys.

BIG FIRE AT HUTCHINSON, KAS.

Morton Salt Works Destroyed—Loss May Reach \$500,000.

Hutchinson, Kas.—The Morton salt block, the largest in the world, owned chiefly by Joy Morton and Paul Morton, former secretary of the navy, was destroyed by fire. The loss embraced a new \$250,000 addition to the plant and a vast quantity of refined salt and may reach \$500,000.

The fire started from the explosion of a coal oil lamp. Crude oil was burned in the furnace and in some way the fire was quickly communicated from the boiler room to other parts of the building. A strong southwest wind fanned the flames and caused them to spread rapidly. In a few days the new quarter of a million dollar addition to the plant would have begun the manufacture of salt by a new process known as the vacuum process and reputed to be much more economical than the old. A battery of eight of the largest oil burners ever constructed had been installed for the operation of this part of the plant. These, with much other costly machinery, is a mass of twisted iron.

WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS.

Brig. Gen. Theo. J. Wint Buried with Impressive Ceremonies.

Washington—With full military honors, the body of Brig. Gen. Theodore J. Wint, U. S. A., formerly commander of the Cuban army of pacification, and who died in Philadelphia Thursday, was buried in Arlington Monday. The funeral train arrived from Philadelphia at 3:30 o'clock and was met at the Pennsylvania depot by the honorary pallbearers and a military detachment consisting of four troops of the Thirtieth cavalry and the Fourth battery of field artillery.

At the grave brief commitment services

were conducted by the chaplain, H. A. Brown, artillery corps and the usual military ceremonies were observed. Col. Albert L. Meyer, One Hundred and Tenth cavalry, has been selected for promotion to the rank of brigadier general to fill a vacancy created by the death of Gen. Wint.

NO FREE TRADE FOR AUSTRALIA.

Minister of Trade and Customs Says It Would Mean Starvation.

London—Sir William John Lyne, Australian minister of trade and customs, who is visiting in London, was interviewed Monday on preferential trade. He said there had been a striking increase in the importation of American machinery, particularly agricultural implements, to Australia, and that the German trade with Australia also was increasing.

Low Death Rate in Canal Zone.

Washington—Only two deaths occurred among the 5,554 white laborers in the canal zone during February. Black water fever caused one of these deaths and tuberculosis the other. No deaths were reported among the 366 American women and children on the isthmus. The sick rate was 24 for every 1,000 persons for the month. Pneumonia was more prevalent than any other disease, 26 cases being reported. Three cases of smallpox, taken from incoming ships, were treated in the zone hospital.

To Abolish Sunday Excursions.

Indianapolis, Ind.—General passenger agents and other officials of the various railroads operating in Indiana and Ohio will gather in this city for the purpose of discussing the question of abolishing Sunday excursions and cheap rates.

Strike Troubles in Switzerland.

Vevey, Switzerland—The general strike which was proclaimed here recently in sympathy with the strikers in a chocolate factory culminated in serious disorders.